Enquiry into Defence Deals

619. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to enquire into the defence deals in the recent past;

(b) whether it includes the urgent purchases made during the Kargil War; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) With a view to ensure absolute probity in defence procurements and in deference to the suggestions made by the Hon'ble Members of Parliament, the Government has requested the C&AG to carry out a Review/Special Audit of the allegations pertaining to:

(i) excessively and wrongly bought spares that are reportedly lying as junk in various depots,

(ii) alleged irregularities in emergency procurements for Kargil operations, and

(iii) non-transfer of technology, even though contracted and paid for.

For the same reasons, the Government has also requested the Central Vigilance Commission for instituting a probe by the CBI or any other appropriate agency into the following allegations:

(i) involvement of agents/middlemen in major Defence deals after imposition of ban on involvement of agents,

(ii) allegations made during the course of Short Duration Discussion in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd December 1999 regarding irregularities in Defence procurements, and

(iii) allegations made in the writ petition filed by a serving Rear Admiral in the Delhi High Court.

Production of Arjuna Tank

620. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE *be* pleased to state:

(a) whether the Arjuna main battle tank going in for serial production